

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| Applicant: | Gutierrez, et al. | Examiner: | Unknown |
| Serial No. | Unknown | Group Art Unit: | Unknown |
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| Title: | POWDER PROCESSING | | |

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

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By: 

Name: Amber Stewart

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 2, line 26, please replace "There is apparatus" with --Apparatus--.

At page 2, line 27, please delete "which".

At page 5, line 18, please replace "find" with --fine--.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Kindly amend the drawings to add "PRIOR ART" in Figure 1. A new Figure 1 is attached.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel original claim 1, and add new claims as follows:

--30. (New) A process for producing products in a powderized form comprising:

directing particulate matter into a pellet mill, the particulate matter being in a first powderized form and having a first density;

generating pellets of the particulate matter; and

milling the pellets into a second powderized form, whereby the second powderized form of the particulate has a greater density than the first density.

31. (New) A process as claimed in claim 30 including ensuring that the formed pellet substantially excludes diluents or fillers.

32. (New) A process as claimed in claim 30 including introducing hydration into the pellet mill during the formation of pellets.

33. (New) A process as claimed in claim 30 including ensuring that the particulate matter includes materials for at least one of a pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal end product.

34. (New) A process as claimed in claim 30 including applying hydration at a selected temperature and pressure and condensation characteristic to the pellet mill during pelletization thereby to increase the moisture content of the product.

35. (New) A process as claimed in claim 34 including ensuring that the product with increased moisture content is forced under pressure through a spinning perforated die of a predetermined dimension thereby to obtain a pellet of a selected size, and means for effecting the forcing through the die being effected selectively by counter rotating roller means.

36. (New) A process as claimed in claim 35 including cooling the pellets to a substantially ambient temperature prior to being milled by the milling means.

37. (New) A process as claimed in claim 30 including pre-milling for processing raw materials to obtain a particulate matter for feeding into the pellet mill.

38. (New) A process as claimed in claim 30 including ensuring that the size of particulate in the first form is greater than about 150 microns.

39. (New) A process as claimed in claim 30 including conditioning the particulate material in a conditioning chamber thereby to be penetrated by at least about 95% hydration under a pressure of about 40 to about 80 PSI thereby to hydrate the particulate matter and thereby add about 1% moisture to the particulate matter.

40. (New) A process as claimed in claim 39 including cooling an outlet from a pellet mill for permitting ambient air to pass through a bed containing pellets discharged from the pelletizing mill.

41. (New) A process as claimed in claim 30 including ensuring that the milled pellets output in a powderized form has an approximate size between about 100 to about 1300 microns, or of a size where essentially most of the powderized product is between a 14 mesh to a 150 mesh.

42. (New) A process as claimed in claim 30 including ensuring that the powderized form of the milled product has a particle size permitting about 100% passage through a 60 to 80 mesh.

43. (New) A process for producing pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal end powdered product, wherein the density of the pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal powdered end product in a powderized form is increased comprising:

directing particulate matter to constitute a pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal powdered end product into a pellet mill, the particulate matter being in a first powderized form and having a first density;

generating pellets of the particulate matter for constituting the pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal powdered end product; and

milling the pellets into a second powderized form, whereby the second powderized form of the particulate for constituting the pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal powdered end product has a greater density than the first density.

44. (New) A process as claimed in claim 43 including ensuring that the formed pellet substantially excludes diluents or fillers.

45. (New) A process as claimed in claim 43 including applying hydration at a selected temperature and pressure and condensation characteristic to the pellet mill during pelletization thereby to increase the moisture content of the product.

46. (New) A process as claimed in claim 45 including ensuring that the product with increased moisture content is forced under pressure through a spinning perforated die of a predetermined dimension thereby to obtain a pellet of a selected size, and means for effecting the forcing through the die being effected selectively by counter rotating roller means.

47. (New) A process as claimed in claim 46 including cooling the pellets to a substantially ambient temperature prior to being milled.

48. (New) A process as claimed in claim 43 including pre-milling for processing raw materials to obtain a particulate matter for feeding into the pellet mill.

49. (New) A process as claimed in claim 43 including ensuring that the size of particulate in the first form is greater than about 150 microns.

50. (New) A process as claimed in claim 43 including conditioning the product to ensure that the particulate material is penetrated by at least about 95% hydrates under a pressure of about 40 to about 80 PSI thereby to hydrate the particulate matter and thereby add about 1% moisture to the particulate matter.

51. (New) A process as claimed in claim 50 including cooling at an outlet from the pelletizing mill for permitting ambient air to pass through a bed containing pellets discharged from the pellet mill.

52. (New) A process as claimed in claim 43 including ensuring that the milled pellets output form has an approximate size between about 100 to about 1300 microns, or of a size where essentially most of the product is between a 14 mesh to a 150 mesh.

53. (New) A process as claimed in claim 43 including ensuring that the powdered form of the milled product has a particle size permitting about 100% passage through a 60 to 80 mesh.

54. (New) A process for forming a pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal powdered end product wherein the density of pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal powdered end product in a powdered form is increased comprising:

directing particulate matter to constitute a pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal powdered end product into a pelletizing mill, the particulate matter being in a first powdered form and having a first density;

generating pellets of the particulate matter for constituting the pharmaceutical nutritional herbal end product;

milling the pellets into a second powdered form for the pharmaceutical nutritional, or herbal powdered end product; and

preventing the additional fillers and diluents to the pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal powdered end product matter thereby to provide a pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal powdered end product having a density greater than at least from about 14% to about 40% relative to a standard pharmaceutical, nutritional or herbal powdered end product.

55. (New) A milled product produced by the process of claim 30 wherein the density of the particulate manner in the second powdered form is of a relatively greater density than in the form prior to being generated into a pellet.

56. (New) A milled product produced by the process of claim 31 wherein the density of the particulate manner in the second powdered form is of a relatively greater density than in the form prior to being generated into a pellet.

57. (New) A milled product produced by the process of claim 33 wherein the density of the particulate manner in the second powdered form is of a relatively greater density than in the form prior to being generated into a pellet.

58. (New) A milled product produced by the process of claim 38 wherein the density of the particulate manner in the second powderized form is of a relatively greater density than in the form prior to being generated into a pellet.

59. (New) A milled product produced by the process of claim 41 wherein the density of the particulate manner in the second powderized form is of a relatively greater density than in the form prior to being generated into a pellet.

60. (New) A milled product produced by the process of claim 42 wherein the density of the particulate manner in the second powderized form is of a relatively greater density than in the form prior to being generated into a pellet.

61. (New) A milled product produced by the process of claim 54 wherein the density of the particulate manner in the second powderized form is of a relatively greater density than in the form prior to being generated into a pellet.--

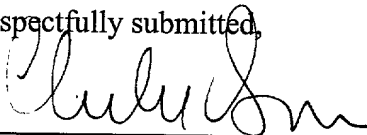
REMARKS

Examination of the above application is respectfully requested. Claims 30-61 should be considered.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in good order for allowance, and such early action is respectfully solicited. Should matters remain which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Date: April 17, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



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